Mission:

The Policy Workgroup has been chartered to recommend policies and organization structure to support the development and implementation of a shared vision and plan for addressing health care quality and cost through health information technology (HIT) and health information exchange (HIE) in Alabama. In the long-term it is anticipated that a separate governing body will be necessary to coordinate interoperable HIE in Alabama, which, as currently contemplated, would serve to:

- Provide leadership, encourage collaboration/cooperation
- Support/Facilitate adoption of HIT
- Ensure equitable and ethical approach to HIE
- Ensure uniform approach to HIE via guidelines
- Negotiate standards for interoperability between regional HIEs
- Collect and distribute funding/align financial incentives
- Serve as a resource center
- Leverage use of existing resources
- Make policy recommendations, particularly for Security and Privacy
- Consider implementing infrastructure if demonstrated need exists
- Develop marketing/communications plan
- Promote public accountability/metrics

Scope and Boundaries:

- Organizational advantages and constraints within Alabama
- Opportunities to implement Operational and Organizational models which are complementary to other Alabama activities
- Explore and demonstrate how a standalone Organizational Governance model is or is not best suited to meet the needs of Alabama to include addressing pertinent legal issues related to Stark, anti-kickback and private inurnment when making recommendations
- High-level business requirements
- Stakeholder concerns
- Develop key success criteria for organization and governance
- Develop a Communications Plan

The Policy Workgroup will **NOT** focus on specific responsibilities of the other workgroups.

Constraints:

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High-Level Timeline/Action Plan through October, 2008 (UPDATED as Needed):

Action/Milestone	Deliverable (if applicable)	Completion Date (target)	Comments

Workgroup Membership:

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address

Other Notes: